instalments of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 33.39 crore have been released to the Government of West Bengal and the entire Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 107.69 crore has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) In Orissa, the relief and restoration measures have been undertaken on a national scale. The State Government have authorised the district Collectors to continue operation of free kitchens in areas where distress conditions are found to be prevailing on the basis of need assessment. Rice, kerosene oil and petroleum products have been supplied to the cyclone affected districts. Clothing and temporary shelter materials have also be supplied to the affected pockets. Availability of essential commodities in the affected areas has been ensured. The Government of West Bengal has reported that it is undertaking reconstruction measures through distribution of Summer rice minikit and betelvine.

Royalty on Crude Oil

*77. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the royalty on crude oil and gas is one of major sources of income of the state of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons for not revising the regular rate of royalty on crude oil for the block period 1993—96 and 1996—99;

(c) whether the question of revising rate of royalty on crude oil is under active consideration by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and upto what time the increased amount of royalty will be paid to the oil producing States including the State of Gujarat; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) Royalty on crude oil and gas is one of the sources of revenue to oil and gas producing States, including the State of Gujarat. Rates of royalty are notified by Central Government in accordance with Oil Field Regulation & Development Act, 1948 and Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959, as amended from time to time. For the periods 1993—96 and 1996—98, payments of royalty were made at the provisional rates of Rs. 528.00 per metric tonne and Rs. 578.00 per metric tonne, respectively. The provisional rate of Rs. 528.00 per MT for the period 1993—96 has since been revised to Rs. 539.80 per MT and payment of arrears has already been effected. For the period 1996—98, the provisional rate will be substituted by another rate on finalisation of the crude oil prices for the period, which would be done on receipt of audited figures on cost of production from Comptroller & Auditor General (C & AG). For the period after 1.4.1998, payments of royalty on crude oil have been made provisionally pending introduction of a new scheme of royalty, to be evolved in consultation with the State Governments. The provisional rates of royalty have been revised upwards

with retrospective effect from June, 1999 from Rs. 578/Metric tonne to Rs. 750/MT subject to the limit of 20% of well head value.

Rejection of CTBT by US Senate

*78. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US senate has rejected the ratification of the CTBT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what concrete steps Government are contemplating on CTBT issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) On October 13, 1999, the US Senate rejected the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) submitted by the US President for the advice and consent of the Senate. 48 senators voted in favour of the treaty while 51 voted against.

(c) India's position on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December, 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. That remains the Government's position. Discussions on a range of issues, including the CTBT, are in process with our key interlocutors. The Government remains ready to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion. Naturally, this requires the creation of a positive environment as we work towards creating the widest possible consensus domestically. We also expect that other countries shall adhere to this treaty without any conditions.

Cultivated Land Area

*79. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cultivated land area has remained unchanged and the rate of food production has declined over the years;

(b) if so, what are the exact figures in this regard; and

(c) in the wake of increasing population how does Government propose to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The cultivated land area in the country in 1979-80 was 154.6 million hectares and it increased to 156.03 million hectares in 1995-96. However, the compound growth rate of total foodgrains production during 1989-90 to 1998-99 was 1.8% compared to 3.54% during 1979-80 to 1989-90.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of various foodgrains the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development